

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ROME 05268 301722Z
ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AGR-05 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-08 EUR-12 COME-00
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S E C R E T ROME 5268

FODAG

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: FAO
SUBJECT: FAO DIRECTOR GENERAL'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON

REF: (A) ROME 5267 (B) STATE 067325

1. FAO DIRECTOR GENERAL IN REVIEWING HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON WITH DEPUTY U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO FAO TOUCHED ON HIS ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF A FEW ASPECTS OF HIS SUMMARY PROGRAM OF WORK AND BUDGET.

2. CLEARLY FIRST IN IMPORTANCE TO SAOUMA IS TO GAIN APPROVAL OF MAJOR FAO ROLE IN REDUCING POST-HARVEST LOSSES. SAOUMA ARGUES THAT \$10 MILLION OUT OF FAO SUSPENSE ACCOUNT IS EASIEST WAY OF STARTING TO FUND PROGRAM. USING FAO SUSPENSE ACCOUNT, USG WOULD NONLY CONTRIBUTE 25 PERCENT, WHILE WE SHOUL ON BASIS OF GNP CONTRIBUTE 40 PERCENT. EARLY USG SUPPORT FOR THIS PROPOSAL ADVOCATED BY FAO AND UN BODIES WOULD BE WELL RECEIVED BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND WOULD HELP EASE NORTH/SOUTH TENSIONS. EVEN MORE EFFECT WOULD BE ACHIEVED IF USG COULD ALSO OFFER SOME ADDITIONAL FUNDING.

3. SAOUMA NOTED SECOND THAT IT WAS TOO EARLY TO HAVE
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USG'S VIEWS ON FAO BUDGET, BUT HIS BUDGET DOES REPRESENT A MAJOR EFFORT TO HOLD DOWN BUDGET AND SHIFT FAO TO ACTION-ORIENTED BODY AS ADVOCATED BY USG.

4. THE INCREASED USE OF ARABIC WOULD GREATLY ASSIST SAOUMA IN DEALING WITH OIL-RICH, MOSTLY ARAB COUNTRIES. HE ONLY PLANS TO MOVE SLOWLY, \$85,000 IN FIRST YEARS,

SO THIS IS MINOR PRICE TO PAY FOR BETTER RELATIONS WITH ARAB COUNTRIES. EARLY 7U.S. SUPPORT WOULD GAIN U.S. RESPECT AND SAOUMA IS CONFIDENT MAJORITY WILL FAVOR INCREASED USE OF ARABIC IN ANY CASE.

5. SAOUMA INDICATED HE DIDN'T CARE ABOUT COUNCIL ELECTION OF DIRECTOR GENERAL OR ELIGIBILITY FOR RENEWAL FOR HIMSELF, BUT HE DID NOT BELIEVE FAO SHOULD BE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST AS IS PRESENT CASE.

6. DEPUTY U.S. REPRESENTATIVE DID NOT COMMENT ON ABOVE POINTS EXCEPT TO STATE PRESENT U.S. POSITION ON PARA 5, SEE REFTEL (B).

7. COMMENT: SAOUMA'S POINTS SEEM TO BE WELL TAKEN AND ARE CLEARLY TO BE CONSIDERED IN RELATION TO REFTEL (A). IT DOES SEEM POOR FINANCIAL PRACTICE TO SET UP A SUSPENSE ACCOUNT IN 1975 FOR A SPECIAL PURPOSE AND THEN CHANGE THE PURPOSE IN 1977 AFTER FUNDS BUDGETED. SAOUMA, HOWEVER, DOES HAVE A GOOD POINT IN THAT USG HAS PRESSED FOR PROGRAM TO REDUCE POST-HARVEST LOSSES AND A USG CONTRIBUTION TO THIS PROGRAM AT START OF FAO COUNCIL COULD ALLEVIATE TENSIONS. GARDNER

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 30-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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